



**Homeland
Security**

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

28 March 2012

Top Stories

- A freight train hauling hazardous materials derailed in rural Indiana, causing a tanker to burst into flames, prompting the evacuation of several nearby homes, and delaying two large passenger trains. – *Associated Press* (See item [3](#))
- Web sites that offer consumers a chance to see their credit reports are being used by hackers to steal information, according to Internet security researchers. – *MSNBC* (See item [18](#))
- Federal safety regulators are investigating 4,000 buses made over the past 20 years after equipment failures led to crashes that killed 2 people and injured 50 others. – *Associated Press* (See item [21](#))
- Information technology supply chains of federal agencies that deal with national security data and programs are vulnerable to malicious or counterfeit software, a new U.S. government report said. – *Nextgov* (See item [41](#))
- Fire management officials battled an uncontrolled wildfire in Jefferson County, Colorado, that killed 2 people, scorched more than 4,500 acres, and burned 16 structures. – *Denver Post* (See item [52](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: LOW, Cyber: LOW

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 27, Farmington Daily Times* – (New Mexico) **New Mexico rolls out new fuel storage rules.** New Mexico put new rules into effect governing the storage of petroleum fuel in hopes of preventing leaks that can contaminate groundwater, the Farmington Daily Times reported March 27. The regulations include steps aimed at ensuring fuel is not delivered to leaking gas station tanks. New Mexico Environment Department staff will work with owners and operators to correct serious violations as soon as possible, the department said in a statement. However, if a facility fails to correct problems in a timely manner, the petroleum storage tank bureau will put red tags on tanks with violations, post a notice at the facility that it may not receive any delivery or deposit of fuel, and list it on a delivery prohibition list on the bureau's Web site. The new rules took effect March 17 after the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board adopted them January 3. They primarily apply to gas stations. Source: http://www.daily-times.com/ci_20262417/new-mexico-rolls-out-new-fuel-storage-rules
2. *March 27, MSNBC; Reuters* – (International) **North Sea exclusion zone set as gas surges from leak.** A cloud of explosive natural gas boiling out of a leaking drilling platform off the coast of Scotland led to the evacuation of hundreds of workers and the creation of a 2-mile exclusion zone, MSNBC reported March 27. Coast guard officials ordered shipping to come no closer than 2 miles from the abandoned Elgin platform, located 150 miles off Aberdeen, and said there was a 3-mile exclusion zone for low-flying aircraft such as helicopters, the BBC reported. Energy firm Total UK, which operates the platform, said it did not know the source of the leak and was considering all options including drilling a relief well — a solution that could take 6 months. It evacuated 238 workers from the platform after the leak was spotted March 25,

according to a report in the Scotsman. The report said Shell reduced its workforce on two nearby offshore installations because of the drifting gas. Reuters reported the company enlisted the services of Wild Well Control, which was heavily involved in the BP's Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.

Source: http://worldnews.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2012/03/27/10884614-north-sea-exclusion-zone-set-as-gas-surges-from-leak

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *March 27, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Freight train derails, catches fire in NE Indiana.** A freight train hauling hazardous materials derailed in rural northeastern Indiana March 27, causing a tanker to burst into flames, and prompting the evacuation of several nearby homes. Twenty-two cars came off the rails near Ligonier. A tanker containing liquid sulphur caught fire and firefighters decided to let it burn because dousing it with water could wash the chemical into the Little Elkhart River, the Noble County sheriff said. The fire was still ablaze after more than 5 hours and it was not clear how long it would continue. A second tanker carrying the gasoline additive toluene was also derailed. Forty-three of the train's 59 freight cars were loaded, said a Norfolk Southern spokesman. Crews used heavy trucks to lift the derailed cars back onto the track. The sheriff said he did not believe chemicals were reaching the river because they were flowing into stagnant water. He said four cars were leaking chemicals, but officials did not believe they were toxic. A spokeswoman for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management said the area around the track is a wetland that feeds into the Little Elkhart, but said they did not see any impact on aquatic life or waterfowl. She said authorities evacuated residents within a half-mile area. The sheriff said about six homes were evacuated. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Web site said exposure to high levels of the two chemicals that spilled from the derailed cars could cause serious injury or death. More than 300 Amtrak passengers traveling on 2 trains to Chicago were stranded for 3 hours in Ohio as the derailment closed the tracks along the way.

Source: <http://www.bnd.com/2012/03/27/2117177/ind-train-derailment-strands-amtrak.html>

4. *March 26, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **2 injured at Air Products plant fire in Luling after hydrogen release.** Two workers were injured at the Air Products plant March 26 after company officials said a hydrogen gas release sparked a fire at the St. Charles Parish, Louisiana facility. Parish emergency operation officials said the fire and chemical release were contained and did not pose a threat. The hydrogen-production facility, which is located near Monsanto, produces industrial gas and chemicals. A spokesman for Air Products said the release occurred during the start up of a hydrogen off-gas plant, which purifies industrial gases containing hydrogen. He said the plant was shutdown. The main hydrogen production facility was unaffected and remains in operation, he said. A New Orleans television station reported

emergency officials said one worker received burns to 40 percent of his body, and the other injured a hand. The Air Products spokesman said employees contained the gas by shutting off the flow valves.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2012/03/2_injured_at_air_products_plan.html

5. *March 26, Spartanburg Herald-Journal* – (South Carolina) **Spartanburg road closed Monday to clean up spilled hydrogen peroxide.** A road in Spartanburg, South Carolina, was closed March 26 as crews removed hydrogen peroxide that spilled from a tanker truck. The Croft Fire Department chief said the driver was taking the chemical from a Charlotte, North Carolina facility to Spartanburg when a valve in the tanker malfunctioned, causing the solution to spill when the truck stopped. The driver left Interstate 85 and drove along secondary roads through Converse when the solution pooled in several different locations before the driver noticed it, the chief said. He said the largest amount spilled on Dogwood Club Road off South Pine Street. The solution, which is completely soluble with water, was a higher concentration than available in drug stores, but did not pose a public threat, the chief noted. He said crews closed a portion of the road for 5 hours while the solution was diluted. This was necessary because there was such a high concentration of the chemical it could have damaged vehicles or irritated skin.

Source:

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20120326/ARTICLES/120329731/1088/sports?Title=Spartanburg-road-closed-Monday-to-clean-up-spilled-hydrogen-peroxide>

6. *March 26, WISN 12 Milwaukee* – (Wisconsin) **Dump truck spill closes 76th, Bradley Rd.** Police in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, closed the intersection of 76th Street and Bradley Road for several hours March 26 after a dump truck filled with sulphuric acid tipped over. Police said there was no danger to anyone in the area. However, it appeared several other vehicles were damaged in the crash.

Source: <http://www.wisn.com/r/30763954/detail.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *March 27, White Plains Journal-News* – (New York) **Indian Point fined \$1.2 million for oil spill.** The Indian Point Nuclear Generating Station in Buchanan, New York, must pay a \$1.2 million fine for “significant violations” of the nation’s Clean Water Act, stemming from a 2010 transformer fire at the nuclear plant that spilled more than 10,000 gallons of oil into discharge canals that empty into the Hudson River. In announcing the consent agreement March 26, New York Department of Environmental Conservation officials also noted the investigation revealed the nuclear plant’s violations of bulk storage regulations for chemicals. Officials from the nuclear plant’s owner, Entergy Nuclear, also agreed to upgrade the containment systems that protect the Hudson River from accidental spills and unpermitted releases.

Source: <http://www.lohud.com/article/20120326/NEWS/303260101/Indian-Point-fined-1-2-million-oil-spill>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

8. ***March 27, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission*** – (National) **Arena Lamp recalled by Great American Opportunities due to electrical shock hazard.** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Great American Opportunities Arena Lamp, March 27 announced a voluntary recall of about 14,500 Great American Opportunity Arena Lamps. The electrical design and construction of the lamps poses the risk of an electric shock to consumers. No injuries have been reported. The recall involves Arena Lamps, also called Disco Lights, Disco Light Projectors, and Arena Light Kaleidoscopes. The lamps were sold at warehouse sales (in temporarily rented space) in Chattanooga and Nashville, Tennessee; Conyers, Georgia; and Bloomington, Illinois from April 2008 through December 2011. The lamps were also given to schools and civic organizations in conjunction with fundraising activities during the same period.

Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml12/12139.html>

9. ***March 26, CNN*** – (National; International) **BMW recalls 367,000 cars in the U.S.** BMW announced March 26 that it was recalling 367,000 5-series and 6-series cars manufactured between 2003 and 2010 because a battery cable cover in the trunk may have been incorrectly installed. The problem could lead to chafing of the battery cable which could, in turn, lead to electrical problems, trouble starting, and in some cases fire, the automaker said. In all, BMW recalled 1.3 million cars worldwide for this problem. Owners of affected vehicles will be notified by mail and will be asked to bring their vehicle to a BMW dealer for a 30-minute repair.

Source: http://money.cnn.com/2012/03/26/autos/bmw_recall/index.htm?hpt=hp_t2

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. ***March 26, Reuters*** – (International) **Internet search yields bogus arms parts from China.** U.S. government investigators, using a fictitious company, were able to easily find electronic parts for weapons from China on the Internet and every single item they bought was counterfeit, despite China's pledge to crack down on fake products, Reuters reported March 26. A new report by the Congressional Government Accountability Office showed that 334 of 396 vendors who offered to sell parts to the fictitious company were from China. It said all 16 parts eventually purchased by the fake company came from 13 China-based vendors, and all were determined by an independent testing laboratory to be counterfeit.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/26/usa-china-weapons-idUSL2E8EQBM020120326>

11. *March 26, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Ohio) **US Department of Labor's OSHA cites Ohio-based Jay-Em Aerospace for failing to protect workers from safety and health hazards.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) March 26 cited Jay-Em Aerospace Inc. with 18 safety and health violations, including one willful safety violation for failing to provide adequate machine guarding on equipment at the aircraft landing gear manufacturer's facility in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Proposed fines total \$87,200. Upon receiving a complaint, the OSHA opened an investigation November 7, 2011 under the agency's national emphasis program to prevent amputations. The program targets workplaces with machinery that has caused, or is capable of causing, amputation injuries. Twelve serious safety violations involve failing to: establish energy control procedures; ensure employees used lockout/tagout procedures for the energy sources of equipment prior to conducting maintenance and servicing; assess the workplace to determine required personal protective equipment such as safety glasses; properly train workers who operate powered industrial trucks; conduct annual crane inspections; remove defective web slings from service; provide point-of-operation guards for mechanical presses and flywheels; and conduct weekly press inspections.

Source:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=22059

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Banking and Finance Sector

12. *March 27, San Antonio Express-News* – (Texas; California; International) **Bogus plastic used at high-end stores.** Fraudsters dressed like tourists have been shopping at high-end stores on San Antonio's northwest side, buying iPods, iPhones, computers, and designer clothes, among other luxuries, according to authorities, the San Antonio Express-News reported March 27. Agents with a U.S. Secret Service-led task force have arrested 3 men from Mexico's capital who possessed more than 200 fake credit cards. Court records show they had been in San Antonio a few times before, making similar weekend trips for products they could sell back home. The men were indicted the week of March 19 on credit card fraud charges carrying penalties of up to 20 years. The case came to a head in February when U.S. Customs and Border Protection, helped by the South Texas Regional Task Force, tracked packages delivered to San Antonio from Mexico, with two of the suspects as the recipients. The agents found one suspect with 99 fake credit cards, a second with 52, and the third with 56, the indictment said. A criminal complaint said one suspect admitted he had made four trips to make fraudulent purchases, while another admitted he traveled to San Diego twice and to San Antonio three times for fake card sprees. The men told investigators they bought the fake cards in Mexico. The special agent in charge of the Secret Service in San Antonio said whoever made the cards encoded them with stolen numbers.

Source: http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/article/More-than-200-fake-credit-cards-seized-3435962.php

13. ***March 27, U.S. Department of the Treasury*** – (International) **Treasury targets Iranian arms shipments.** The U.S. Department of the Treasury March 27 announced the designation of an Iranian cargo airline, Yas Air; Behineh Trading; three Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF) officials; and one Nigerian shipping agent – all pursuant to Executive Order 13224 for acting for, on behalf of, or providing support to, the IRGC-QF, a designated terrorist entity. The airline, the trading company, and the IRGC-QF officials were involved, respectively, in shipments of weapons to the Levant and Africa, further demonstrating Iran’s determination to evade international sanctions. Based in Tehran, Yas Air is an Iranian cargo airline that acts for or on behalf of the IRGC-QF to transport illicit cargo – including weapons – to Iran’s clients in the Levant. Yas Air has moved IRGC-QF personnel and weapons under the cover of humanitarian aid. Behineh Trading and the Nigerian agent were involved in a weapons shipment seized in Nigeria in late October 2010. This weapons shipment – orchestrated by the IRGC-QF and intended for The Gambia – is part of a larger pattern of Iranian lethal aid shipments to clients in Africa and around the world. Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1506.aspx>

14. ***March 26, Dow Jones Newswires*** – (National) **JP Morgan Chase says banking Web site issues resolved.** J.P.Morgan Chase & Co. said its consumer banking Web site experienced technical difficulties March 26 that slowed online banking for several hours, and intermittently made access to the site unavailable, including through mobile devices. However, the bank said the issues had been resolved by the early afternoon. At issue was a glitch related to an upgrade made over the weekend of March 24, a spokesman said. The bank sent a social media alert via Twitter at around 10 a.m. saying it was “working to restore access ASAP & will keep you updated.” Online services continued to be spotty until about 1 p.m. Technology in Chase bank branches was not impacted.
Source: <http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2012/03/26/jp-morgan-chase-says-banking-website-issues-resolved/>

15. ***March 26, FBI*** – (Missouri) **Car dealership owner pleads guilty to multi-million-dollar bank fraud conspiracy.** A U.S. attorney has announced that the owner of several used car dealerships in the Kansas City, Missouri metropolitan area pleaded guilty in federal court March 26 to his role in a bank fraud conspiracy that resulted in losses of millions of dollars by several financial institutions. Between May 2000 and February 2009, the man operated several used car dealerships including Better Than New Automobiles LLC, On Time Auto, and Hart Family Motors. He and others obtained loans and lines of credit from various financial institutions in connection with vehicles. He admitted he provided false and fraudulent financial data to obtain loans and lines of credit. He also admitted he obtained multiple loans in which the same vehicle was pledged as collateral. He also said he and his wife borrowed more than \$1 million from First Missouri National Bank between November 15, 2006 and March 26, 2008. They provided copies of their 2004 and 2005 income tax returns to the bank. However, the plea agreement said they did not actually file those returns until 2009.

The filed returns were materially different from those submitted to the bank in support of their loan application, claiming a much lower adjusted gross income. The government believes the loss attributed to the man is between \$2.5 million and \$7 million.

Source: <http://www.loansafe.org/car-dealership-owner-pleads-guilty-to-multi-million-dollar-bank-fraud-conspiracy>

16. *March 26, Associated Press* – (New York; International) **Guilty plea entered in NY online poker case.** One of two men nearing trial in a case that shut down U.S. operations for three Internet poker companies has admitted he conspired with others to deceive U.S. financial institutions so they would process hundreds of millions of dollars in gaming transactions. The defendant entered his guilty plea March 26 in a U.S. district court in Manhattan to a count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud and to operate illegal gambling businesses. A plea deal reached between prosecutors and the defendant recommends a sentence of 6 months to a year in prison. He also agreed to forfeit \$500,000 along with his interest in more than \$25 million held in payment-processing accounts in the United States and abroad. Prosecutors have sought \$3 billion in money laundering penalties and forfeiture after targeting three companies based overseas: PokerStars, Full Tilt Poker, and Absolute Poker. The defendant admitted serving as a payment processor for all three companies at various times from 2008 through early 2011. The government said he and others created phony corporations and Web sites to disguise payments to the poker companies.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-03/D9TOGQO80.htm>

17. *March 26, KGTV 10 San Diego* – (California) **Woman says she stole from ATMs after cartel threat.** A couple is facing at least 4 years in prison for allegedly stealing \$150,000 from a Chula Vista, California bank. Local prosecutors said the scheme had the woman stealing money from automated teller machines at the Chase Bank where she was the lead teller. It was her responsibility to stock the machines with money. According to a search warrant, the woman stole upwards of \$150,000 from three ATMs at the bank during a 4-month stretch in 2010. In November 2010, an audit was done incorrectly on one of those machines. An investigation revealed the woman was allegedly overstocking the ATMs and skimming off the top. The search warrant said she admitted taking \$150,000 from the machines, but she and her husband said they did it to protect their daughter. The search warrant said: “[They] claimed they had been approached by a male who identified himself as a member of a Mexican drug cartel. The male threatened to kidnap [their] 14-year-old daughter unless they paid the cartel \$150,000.” Each member of the couple is facing multiple felonies including grand theft and conspiracy.

Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/30766716/detail.html>

18. *March 26, MSNBC* – (International) **Hackers turn credit report websites against consumers.** The most important tool consumers have to fight against identity theft has been turned against them by hackers, MSNBC reported March 26. Web sites that offer consumers a chance to see credit reports are being brazenly used by hackers to steal information. The prices of the reports rise and fall depending on the credit score of the victim. For consumers with credit scores in the 750s, report data might fetch \$80;

reports from victims with scores in the low 600s sell for about half that, according to “for sale” pages viewed by MSNBC. The most troubling part of these markets however -- many hosted in the .su domain, which stands for the now-defunct Soviet Union -- is the ready availability of credit reports and the hackers’ bragging about how easy it is to infiltrate Web sites such as AnnualCreditReport.com or CreditReport.com. Criminals with stolen credit cards can obtain background reports, credit reports, and ultimately open new accounts using the data, a researcher with Internet security firm CloudEyes.com said. In one how-to posted on a bulletin board, a hacker describes one brute-force attack used to gain access to credit report Web sites. Most sites are protected by “challenge” questions such as, “Which bank holds the mortgage on your home?” But there is a critical flaw, the hacker said: “Normally all ... of them will ask you the same question,” the hacker wrote. Because the sites use the multiple choice format, it is easy to use the process of elimination and determine the correct answers, he claims.

Source: http://redtape.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2012/03/26/10875023-exclusive-hackers-turn-credit-report-websites-against-consumers

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Transportation Sector

19. ***March 27, Richmond Times Dispatch*** – (Virginia) **3 die, 3 injured in crash that closes U.S. 60 in Powhatan.** Three people were killed and three injured March 26 in a head-on crash on U.S. 60 in Powhatan County, Virginia, that created a swath of destruction several hundred yards long and closed a narrow stretch of the road for much of the day. The wreck, involving two westbound trucks carrying treated sludge and three eastbound tractor-trailers hauling pine logs and cut lumber, left one vehicle in flames, logs piled 5 feet deep on one part of the road, and a crash scene that took rescuers nearly 5 hours to remove the last of the bodies. A Virginia State Police sergeant said witness reports indicate a sludge truck crossed the center line and started the chain-reaction crash, located about 2 miles west of where U.S. 60 narrows from four lanes to two. One of the injured was flown by helicopter to a hospital with injuries that were life-threatening, and two others were treated for minor injuries.

Source: <http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/state-news/2012/mar/27/tdmet01-3-die-3-injured-in-crash-that-closes-us-60-ar-1796520/>

20. ***March 27, Palm Beach Post*** – (Florida) **Propane truck removed from bridge; U.S. 441 reopens west of Lake Worth.** A portion of U.S. 441 south of Lake Worth Road was shut down for about 6 hours March 27 while crews tried to remove a propane truck stuck on a small wooden bridge. The truck has since been removed, and northbound lanes of U.S. 441 between Lake Worth Road and 50th Street were reopened. Palm Beach County Fire Rescue crews and Florida Highway Patrol troopers were dispatched to the bridge. A propane truck was traveling on the wooden bridge and its weight exceeded the bridge’s weight limit, said a fire rescue captain. One of the truck’s wheels went through the wood planking on the bridge. Crews had to first stabilize the truck,

empty the propane from it, and then remove the truck off the bridge.

Source: http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/traffic/propane-truck-removed-from-bridge-u-s-441-2264309.html?cxntcid=breaking_news

21. *March 26, Associated Press* – (National; International) **Feds probe bus defect that may have caused crashes.** Federal safety regulators have begun investigating buses made by Motor Coach Industries Inc. over the past 20 years because the drive shafts can fall out and cause drivers to lose control. The problem has led to two crashes that killed 2 people and injured 50 others, said documents filed March 26 on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Web site. The probe covers about 4,000 MCI D-Series buses with a steerable rear axle made from 1992 until 2012. Schaumburg, Illinois-based MCI said on its Web site it is the leading maker of intercity buses in the United States and Canada. The probe stems from a complaint filed with the NHTSA by transportation company FirstGroup America, parent of Greyhound bus lines. The company said several drive shafts failed on MCI buses starting March 2010, and the shafts were not held up by safety loops that are supposed to keep them in place. In two cases, drivers lost control, causing multiple injuries and fatalities, the complaint said.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-03/D9TOCOHO1.htm>

22. *March 26, Center Light and Champion* – (Texas) **Union Pacific train derails off Highway 84.** Union Pacific contacted the Shelby County, Texas, Sheriff's Department to tell them of a March 25 train derailment on Highway 84 in Paxton. Assistance was requested because there were concerns a tanker had ruptured. Both the Joaquin and Tenaha Volunteer Fire Departments responded. Firefighters and the sheriff determined there was no danger and leak, and then made preparations to clear the track.

Source: <http://lightandchampion.com/article/001869-union-pacific-train-derails-highway-84>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

23. *March 27, KGO 7 News* – (California) **San Jose post office reopens after powder found.** Authorities reopened a post office in downtown San Jose, California, about two and a half hours after an evacuation March 27 prompted by concerns about a white powder discovered in a package. A U.S. Postal Service spokeswoman told the San Jose Mercury News the powder turned out to be a harmless herbal remedy from Vietnam that a man had ordered for his child. Fire officials said two employees had complained of sore throats and headaches after being exposed to the package. They said the pair, as well as a third employee in the area, were decontaminated by a HAZMAT unit.

Source: http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/south_bay&id=8597216

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Agriculture and Food Sector

24. *March 27, Food Safety News* – (National) **BPI suspends 70 percent of ammoniated beef production.** Responding to a dramatic drop in consumer demand, Beef Products Inc, the nation’s leading maker of ammoniated beef now widely known as “pink slime,” announced it is suspending production at three plants, Food Safety News reported March 27. The suspended plants account for about 70 percent of the company’s capacity to produce Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) treated with ammonium hydroxide. LFTB is essentially low-cost filler made from leftover trimmings once relegated to pet food and other byproducts. Because all beef trimmings are at risk for E. coli or Salmonella contamination, the company adds a mixture of ammonia and water (ammonium hydroxide) to kill bacteria. The product, which is 90 percent lean, is then mixed in with other, higher fat content ground beef. The company said it would temporarily suspend the operations at production facilities in Garden City, Kansas; Amarillo, Texas; and Waterloo, Iowa, which employ around 650 people. The Dakota Dune, South Dakota headquarters plant will continue operating but not at capacity, according to a company spokesman.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/bpi-suspends-70-percent-of-ammoniated-beef-production/>

25. *March 27, Food Safety News* – (Texas; Indiana) **Allergen alert: Smoked sausage with whey, casein.** J Bar B Foods of Waelder, Texas, is recalling about 64,020 pounds of smoked sausages because they contain whey and casein, allergens not declared on the label, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service announced March 26. According to the recall notice, the company discovered the problem during a label review. It had used a spice mix from its supplier that contained hydrolyzed whey and casein protein, but the product label does not list the allergens as ingredients in the sausage. The recall is for 11-pound boxes of Eckrich Smoked Sausage Made with Pork and Beef. The sausages were sent to distribution centers in Dallas and Indianapolis for institutional use.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/allergen-alert-smoked-sausage-with-whey-casein/>

26. *March 27, WLKM 95.9 Three Rivers* – (Michigan) **Lunch crowd evacuated.** A carbon-dioxide alarm March 26 resulted in the evacuation of a lunchtime crowd at the McDonald’s restaurant in Three Rivers, Michigan. When the Three Rivers Fire Department arrived, the manager had evacuated customers and employees . Responding firefighters turned off supply valves from the restaurant’s C02 storage tank, which is used in soft-drink-dispensing equipment in several locations throughout the store. The fire department established cross-ventilation of the building and stood by until service technicians arrived to assess the system. It was determined the leak was caused by a faulty connector on one of the distribution tanks. The March 26 incident marked the second time in recent days the restaurant was forced to close around lunch time. A fire involving a deep-fryer occurred March 21 and also forced the store to close

temporarily.

Source: <http://www.wlkm.com/?p=26082>

27. *March 27, Detroit News* – (Michigan) **Farm agrees to pay \$75K in '09 fish kill.** A Sanilac County, Michigan farm agreed to pay \$75,000 in penalties for its role in causing one of the worst fish kills in Michigan history, the Detroit News reported March 27. Noll Dairy Farm Inc. in Croswell will pay the fine for its actions in the late summer of 2009. Some 218,000 fish of various species in the Black River were thought to have been killed due to runoff from the family-owned farm. In August 2009, clouds of dead smallmouth bass, catfish, northern pike, rock bass, sunfish, suckers, minnows, and darters turned up over a 4-day period in a 12-mile stretch of the Black River near Croswell in Sanilac County, and the Port Huron State Game Area. The fish, many of them healthy adults, had died from a lack of oxygen. Staff with the department of environmental quality as well as the department of natural resources initially suspected contamination — most likely manure used as fertilizer — from an agricultural operation. They tracked the contamination up the Black River and then up a tributary to Noll Farms.

Source:

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120327/METRO/203270357/1409/metro/Farm-agrees-pay-75K-09-fish-kill>

28. *March 26, Detroit News* – (Michigan) **Freeze threatens state's \$300M fruit crop after weeks of warm weather.** After a string of record-breaking temperatures that led to an early wake-up in the environment, a freeze warning advisory was in effect for overnight March 26-27 that some feared could damage Michigan's \$300 million fruit crop. The National Weather Service issued a freeze warning, which is when the temperatures dip to 29-32 degrees. A hard freeze is considered 28 degrees or lower, which was what the forecast called for in metro Detroit and throughout other regions in the state, said a meteorologist. The biggest concern for Michigan is the state's fruit crop, valued between \$325-\$400 million, including blueberries, cherries, apricots, peaches, and plums, said the director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's national Agricultural Statistic Service, in the Michigan field office in East Lansing. "The warm weather we've had has caused the fruit trees to bloom about 4 or 5 weeks ahead of normal," he said. "And those blooms are what eventually turn into fruit and those blooms could get frost damaged if it gets into the mid 20s, low 20s and stays there for awhile."

Source:

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120326/METRO/203260376/1409/metro/Freeze-threatens-state-s-300M-fruit-crop-after-weeks-warm-weather>

29. *March 26, New Jersey Herald* – (New Jersey) **Farmers scramble as temperatures plummet.** The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) teamed with state agriculture department overnight March 26 in efforts to help farmers preserve their crops from the forecast overnight freeze in New Jersey. Unseasonably high temperatures have caused a premature bloom, especially with fruit and flowering trees, which temperatures, expected to dip into the low 20s, threatened to decimate. The freeze could have irrevocably damaged an entire year's worth of crops such as peaches,

apples, blueberries, and strawberries; crops which according to the agriculture department together value in the hundreds of millions of dollars. The DEP and agriculture department had mobilized to ensure farmers would be able to protect their crops using open or controlled burns, tactics that are only allowed in dire cases. They lifted the ban, allowing farmers to use burns but only under certain circumstances.

Source: <http://www.njherald.com/story/17261100/farmers-scramble-as-temperatures-plummet>

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Water Sector

30. ***March 27, Great Falls Tribune*** – (Montana) **EPA orders oil firms to pay for moving Poplar-area drinking wells.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced an agreement with Murphy Exploration & Production, Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc., and Samson Hydrocarbons March 26, which requires the three oil companies to pay the city of Poplar, Montana, \$320,000 for costs the city incurred moving water wells out of the path of a pollution plume that began in the East Poplar oil field. The plume is moving toward the eastern Montana city and threatening its water supply. A second provision in the agreement requires that the companies continue to monitor Poplar's water supply monthly and provide treatment, or an alternate drinking water source, if certain "trigger levels" indicating a decline in water quality are reached. The EPA estimates that more than 40 million gallons of brine entered the drinking water aquifer over 5 decades. Water treated by the city's treatment system is safe to drink, but monthly samples collected by the oil companies indicate an upward trend in total dissolved solids, chloride, and sodium, according to the EPA. The saline wastewater also has trace metals, inorganic salt concentrations, and volatile organic compounds.

Source: <http://www.greatfallstribune.com/article/20120327/NEWS01/203270301/EPA-orders-oil-firms-pay-moving-Poplar-area-drinking-wells>

31. ***March 26, Associated Press*** – (California) **30,000 gallons of lye spills at Escondido Plant.** Hazardous materials specialists were working to cleanup a 30,000-gallon spill of lye near a water filtration plant in Escondido, California, March 26. Fire officials said there was no threat that the caustic chemical has tainted the city's water supply. The fire chief said about 15,000 gallons of lye spilled into a canyon where it appeared to be absorbing into the ground, while the other half of the spill flowed into a containment area. An Escondido city spokeswoman said the lye is kept at the water treatment facility to be used in the event of a chlorine spill. She said the spill has not caused any threat to public health.

Source:

http://www.kolotv.com/californianews/headlines/30000_Gallons_of_Lye_Spills_at_Escondido_Plant_144327825.html

32. ***March 26, Mason County Public Utility District 1 Press Release*** – (Washington) **Boil water advisory for Hood Canal A water system in Union.** The well pump for the Hood Canal A water system in Mason County, Washington, failed and was replaced

March 26. The Mason County Public Utilities District No. 1 expects repairs will be completed by the end of March 26. The district recommended all customers on Dalby Road, Waterwheel Place, 191 Orre Nobles Road, 6871 Hwy 106, 6885 Hwy 106, and 6920 Hwy 106 boil their water until further notice. The boil water advisory will remain in effect until the district is confident no evidence of contamination exists. The district has provided bottled water to residences and businesses.

Source: <http://www.masoncountydailynews.com/news/news-page/26911-boil-water-advisory-for-hood-canal-a-water-system-in-union>

33. *March 26, KGW 8 Portland* – (Oregon) **Sewage surfaces at Woodburn mobile homes.** Thirteen homes in a mobile home park in Woodburn, Oregon, were without water and sewage treatment after dye tests showed effluent coming to the surface, KGW 8 Portland reported March 26. The homes were tagged as “dangerous” as part of Marion County code enforcement, according to a spokeswoman. The owner of the mobile home park was working with county officials to fix the problem, she said. Temporary portable toilets have been provided. Volunteers were organizing an effort to provide bottled water. Testing will continue daily until the problem is resolved, officials said.

Source: <http://www.kgw.com/news/local/Sewage-spill-at-Marion-County-mobile-home-park-144259555.html>

34. *March 23, Augusta Chronicle* – (Georgia) **Two Jefferson County creeks affected by kaolin spill.** A ruptured pipe and an open valve in a containment basin were among the causes of a kaolin spill that affected two creeks March 23 near a Thiele kaolin facility in Jefferson County, Georgia. Officials with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division said Reedy Creek and a portion of Thompson Ford Branch were impacted. Authorities estimated more than 100,000 gallons of kaolin escaped before the leak was halted, but no dead fish or fish kills were detected or reported. They said there were no surfactants or chemical additives present in the spilled material. Although the kaolin went into the containment basin, a downstream valve that would have kept it there was left open, an official said. They believe the valve was knocked open by a tractor mowing grass in the area. Sampling was under way in several locations downstream from the leak. Company officials also brought in vacuum trucks and pumps to remove some of the kaolin-impacted water. Crews also emptied the remaining contents of the containment basin and the recovered materials were taken to the company’s wastewater treatment system.

Source: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/latest-news/2012-03-23/two-jefferson-county-creeks-affected-kaolin-spill?v=1332543706>

For more stories, see items [1](#), [3](#), [7](#), and [27](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

35. *March 27, FBI* – (Texas; Georgia; International) **McAllen woman convicted for role in Aflac insurance fraud scam.** Another south Texas resident was convicted in

relation to a multi-million-dollar conspiracy to defraud the American Family Life Assurance Company (Aflac), a U.S. attorney announced March 27. A total of 36 persons were charged in mid-June 2011 in a number of indictments for their roles in a conspiracy to defraud Aflac of millions of dollars by filing false injury claims. Prior to the March 27 hearing, 35 of the defendants were convicted. March 27, the final defendant pleaded guilty to making false statements relating to health care matters before a U.S. district judge. According to information presented in court, the woman was a policyholder under Aflac's Accident-Only Insurance Plan and from 2005 to 2010, delivered lists of fake accidents and injuries to two licensed physicians who worked together in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico. The physicians allegedly prepared an "accident report" for each fake injury in exchange for a cash kickback of about \$15 per report. Over time, she and other policyholders participating in the conspiracy with the physicians faxed more than 22,000 false injury claims, accompanied by the physicians' fraudulent accident reports, to Aflac's claims department in Columbus, Georgia, causing Aflac to disburse more than \$3 million in insurance proceeds.

Source:

http://7thspace.com/headlines/408838/mcallen_woman_convicted_for_role_in_aflac_insurance_fraud_scam.html

36. ***March 27, KTNV 13 Las Vegas*** – (Nevada) **Pharmacy board charges Western Home Care after lengthy investigation.** After a two and a half year investigation, the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy, March 15 issued a "notice of intended action and accusation" against Western Home Care — the company that provided an oxygen concentrator to a man that became deathly ill in 2008. After he became deathly ill, his family took a filter in for testing. It tested positive for a dangerous bacteria called pseudomonas. The charges are based on the state's investigation, which found improperly serviced machines and inaccurate and altered records. For example, though Western's records showed they replaced the man's first oxygen concentrator with a "brand new machine" in January 2009, the state found that machine had actually been sold to a company in Ohio or Florida. The pharmacy board also found dates had been altered on clinical notes, and they uncovered two sets of identical maintenance and tracking records. One had been altered to make it look like a filter had been replaced, when it actually had not.

Source: <http://www.ktnv.com/news/toprotator/144347565.html>

37. ***March 26, Appen Newspapers*** – (Georgia) **Ex-employee sought for stolen medical records in Alpharetta.** A disgruntled employee was allegedly responsible for a multitude of personnel and financial information stolen or destroyed from a medical company's records in Alpharetta, Georgia, Appen Newspapers reported March 26. According to the company's representatives, the company's IT specialist was employed there for 7 years. During that time, he was contracted with the group under his business, for which he is the only employee. The IRS contacted the victim company, telling them to withhold wages from the IT specialist due to tax issues. He took the news badly and allegedly threatened his employers that, "companies that lose their data go out of business." As of February 2011, the company was locked out of their servers, which hold many of the company's records, including employees' personal information, and business records and research. A few days later, they found that the

physical hard drives were missing from their off-site storage. The estimated loss of those computers was almost \$11,000. The IT specialist is wanted for theft of trade secrets and is living at an unknown location.

Source: <http://www.northfulton.com/Articles-CRIME-c-2012-03-26-192341.114126-sub-Exmployee-sought-for-stolen-medical-records-in-Alpharetta.html>

For another story, see item [46](#)

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Government Facilities Sector

38. ***March 27, WAFF 48 Huntsville*** – (Alabama) **R.A. Hubbard High School damaged by fire; classes canceled.** A fire broke out at R. A. Hubbard High School in Lawrence County, Alabama, March 26. School officials canceled classes March 27, and the Lawrence County Schools superintendent hoped to resume classes March 28. Officials said one firefighter was treated for smoke inhalation. Courtland and North Courtland Fire Departments worked to put the fire out. They searched room by room to find the source. Firefighters think the fire started in a shop class.

Source: <http://www.wsfa.com/story/17262582/fire-at-ra-hubbard-high-school-classes-cancelled-tuesday>

39. ***March 27, WRC 4 Washington, D.C.*** – (Virginia) **Virginia Tech approves new firearms ban.** A new regulation at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, bans concealed firearms and other weapons from university buildings and major events such as football games. The school's board of governors approved the measure March 26. The new rule replaces an existing policy, and it concerns firearms carried both by concealed permit holders and non-permit-holders. The state attorney general said in July 2011, universities did not have the authority to ban people from bringing guns into school facilities, as long as they have concealed carry permits. Those permitted under Virginia state law to own a firearm must be allowed to carry it openly, or concealed with a permit on the open grounds of public institutions, he said. But in January, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled public universities could ban open carrying of firearms in buildings and at events. Virginia Tech officials said March 26 that legal opinion had changed, and the regulation was approved without comment.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/46869819/ns/local_news-washington_dc/#.T3H6tdl26U8

40. ***March 26, WVTM 13 Birmingham*** – (Alabama) **Saturday classes may be needed for Putnam School students.** The superintendent of Birmingham city schools said weekend classes may make up for missed school at Putnam Middle School in Birmingham, Alabama. The final decision has not been made. Also, the classes would be voluntary. Mercury spilled at the middle school March 2. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency cleared the school the week of March 19. The superintendent said he met with members of his curriculum team March 26. The team discussed voluntary weekend class as an option. Completing time at the end of the school year is also an option. The superintendent may also ask the state to forgive some days. The chemical

spill may be considered an environmental disaster.

Source: <http://www2.alabamas13.com/news/2012/mar/26/6/saturday-classes-may-be-needed-putnam-school-stude-ar-3484951/>

41. *March 23, Nextgov* – (National) **Malicious code in the IT supply chain threatens federal operations.** Agencies that deal with national security data and programs must do more to secure their information technology supply chains, said a report released by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) March 23. Federal agencies are not required to track “the extent to which their telecommunications networks contain foreign-developed equipment, software or services,” the report said, and they typically are aware only of the IT vendors nearest to them on the chain, not the numerous vendors downstream. That has left IT systems at the Energy, Homeland Security, and Justice departments more vulnerable to malicious or counterfeit software installed by other nations’ intelligence agencies or by non-state actors and hackers. U.S. enemies could use the software to secretly pull data from government systems, erase or alter information on those systems, or even take control of them remotely. The Justice Department has identified measures to protect its supply chain, but has not developed procedures to implement those measures, the report said. Energy and Homeland Security have not identified measures to protect their supply chains at all, according to the GAO. It also examined the Defense Department, which it said had designed and effectively implemented a supply chain risk management program. Defense has reduced its supply chain risk through a series of pilot programs and expects to have “full operational capability for supply chain risk management” by 2016, the report said. The U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team inside the DHS found about one-fourth of roughly 43,000 agency-reported security incidents during fiscal 2011 involved malicious code that could have been installed somewhere along the supply chain, the GAO said. The report recommended that Energy and Homeland Security officials develop and implement firm procedures to protect against supply chain threats. The departments largely agreed with the GAO’s assessments, the report said.

Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20120323_1655.php

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Emergency Services Sector

42. *March 26, WNCT 9 Greenville* – (North Carolina) **Thousands of dollars of equipment stolen from New Bern Fire Department.** New Bern, North Carolina police were trying to find out who stole thousands of dollars worth of gear from the New Bern Fire Department, WNCT 9 Greenville reported March 26. Three trailers were broken into and the pad locks were cut off the doors. The thieves got away with everything from power tools to compressors, lights, saws, generators, blankets, and more. “We’re still adding some numbers but we believe it’s in the ballpark of \$10,000,” a lieutenant with the fire department said.

Source: <http://www2.wnct.com/news/2012/mar/26/6/valuable-equipment-snatched-new-bern-fire-rescue-b-ar-2090107/>

For more stories, see items [39](#), [41](#), and [46](#)

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Information Technology Sector

43. *March 27, V3.co.uk* – (International) **LulzSec hackers return to target CSS Corp and military dating sites.** Hacker group LulzSecReborn targeted CSS Corp and Military Singles' sites, publishing data reportedly taken in the cyber raid online. The hackers claim to have obtained the e-mail details for all staff at IT services firm CSS Corp, and published some details online. Prior to the attack March 25, LulzSecReborn published what it claims are the names, usernames, passwords, and e-mails of 170,937 accounts on MilitarySingles.com. The group has since suggested it still has access to the two sites' networks and could delete CSS's information at will. LulzSecReborn said it is not affiliated with the original LulzSec group and has no knowledge regarding the authenticity of LulzSec's rumored April 1 return.
Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3-uk/news/2163902/lulzsec-hackers-return-target-css-corp-military-dating-sites>

44. *March 26, Dark Reading* – (International) **FTP ubiquitous and dangerously noncompliant.** FTP servers might be easy to provision and a convenient means for users to share information across corporate boundaries, but the way most organizations use the protocol introduces unnecessarily high levels of security and compliance risks to organizations. Despite the risks, a new survey shows that more than half of enterprises still depend on insecure and non-compliant FTP connections to collaborate with business partners and customers. Not only do insecure FTP deployments make organizations more prone to detection by regulatory auditors, but as several high-profile incidents over the last year demonstrated, they are very likely to expose sensitive information stores.
Source:
<http://www.darkreading.com/compliance/167901112/security/news/232700273/>

45. *March 25, ZDNet* – (International) **Study: More than 50% of Global 500 use vulnerable open source components.** According to a joint research report issued March 25 by Sonatype and Aspect Security, more than 50 percent of the world's largest corporations have open source applications with security vulnerabilities. That is because more than 80 percent of software applications built in-house by enterprise developers incorporate open source components and frameworks that may be vulnerable. The report — based on a survey of 2,550 developers, architects and analysts — maintains that the widely held view that open source software is consistently high quality “overlooks ecosystem flaws,” chiefly the lack of a notification system alerting developers about vulnerabilities and new versions with fixes.
Source: <http://www.zdnet.com/blog/open-source/study-more-than-50-of-global-500-use-vulnerable-open-source-components/10660>

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Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

46. ***March 26, WBNG 12 Binghamton*** – (New York) **Phone service interruptions for Southern Tier.** TW Telecom said March 26 its crews were out trying to fix a damaged line that left customers in the Oneonta, Johnson City, and Norwich, New York areas without landline phone service. The company said the outage was impacting some of its TW Telecom customers, primarily business customers. TW Telecom said it was not sure where, but somehow a fiber line was cut in the region. Most service was restored through rerouting calls. Emergency service providers and hospitals were attended to first.

Source: <http://www.wbng.com/news/local/Phone-Service-Interruptions-for-Southern-Tier-144230945.html>

47. ***March 26, Taos News*** – (New Mexico) **Major cell phone and internet failure reported in Taos County.** At 6:50 p.m. March 24 cell phones all over Taos, New Mexico, suddenly went dead. Then, reports started coming in that Internet services also were down. Land line telephones, however, appeared to not be affected. According to a recorded message at TaosNet, a local Internet service provider, the incident was termed a “major circuit outage ... affecting all circuits out of Taos.” According to a TaosNet spokesman, the outage was due to a CenturyLink cable that was severed 17 miles east of Taos. It is not known at this time what caused the line to be cut. Taos police dispatch said March 24 that calls started pouring in sometime after 7 p.m. from concerned citizens unable to use their cell services. Some of their own services were being routed through Red River. The TaosNet spokesman said CenturyLink was working to have the line fixed by March 25.

Source: http://www.taosnews.com/news/article_a8bc36ee-769e-11e1-8243-0019bb2963f4.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

48. ***March 27, WHP 21 Harrisburg*** – (Pennsylvania) **3 alarm fire at a Cumberland County apartment building.** The cause of a three-alarm fire at an apartment building in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, that forced nearly a dozen people into the cold has been determined as accidental and electrical in nature. Residents discovered the fire just before midnight March 26. The area has several businesses with apartments on the upper floors, which is where the worst of the damage happened. The fire started on the

second floor of one of the apartments. The Red Cross is currently assisting the displaced tenants.

Source: http://www.whptv.com/news/local/story/PHOTO-UPDATE-3-alarm-fire-at-a-Cumberland-County/7N_WHTvIdkSRWpxjsMyLOQ.cspx

49. ***March 27, WJAR 10 Providence*** – (Rhode Island) **Teenagers face arson charges in mill fire.** Providence, Rhode Island police said March 27 that two teenagers were arrested in connection with an arson fire in a mill building that houses a self-storage facility and other businesses. The flames broke out in a portion of the three-story mill building that was not being used. Police said the boys were charged with breaking and entering and first-degree arson.
Source: <http://www2.turnto10.com/news/2012/mar/27/5/providence-mill-fire-deemed-suspicious-ar-979108/>
50. ***March 26, Rockford Register Star*** – (Illinois) **Kids treated in chlorine malfunction at Rockford pool.** Seven children were transported to a hospital March 26 after taking in chlorine at a Rockford, Illinois pool. A maintenance man was working on a pump at the Millennium Center pool when the chlorinator malfunctioned. “It wasn’t too much chlorine, it was just a sudden burst,” a local fire chief said. The children who complained of throat irritation were transported to the hospital as a precaution, and the pool was closed for the rest of the day.
Source: <http://www.rrstar.com/updates/x1184534747/Kids-treated-in-chlorine-malfunction-at-Rockford-pool>
51. ***March 26, WZVN 7 Naples*** – (Florida) **Road reopened after chlorine gas leak.** Emergency crews were on scene of a chlorine gas leak outside a construction company in North Naples, Florida, March 26. Officials said a container carrying 150 pounds of chlorine gas ruptured, causing the leak. The construction company involved installs water systems and uses the chlorine to sterilize pipes. The leak prompted crews to shut down the street during the response, which took about 6 hours. A HAZMAT team on scene capped off the leak and a chlorine company later drained the tank of chlorine.
Source: <http://www.abc-7.com/story/17253630/2012/03/26/street-closed-after-chlorine-gas-tank-leak-in-n-naples>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

52. ***March 27, Denver Post*** – (Colorado) **Colorado wildfire: New spot blaze prompts warnings to 6,500 homes.** Authorities have sent out a pre-evacuation notice to 6,500 homes after a spot fire flared up one mile northwest of Waterton Canyon in Colorado, March 27. The homes are just north of the uncontrolled Lower North Fork Fire in Jefferson County where 4,500 acres have burned and two people have died. Several helicopters and tankers were being flown in to Jefferson County to drop water and

flame retardant on the wildfire. Investigators said a second person was found dead within the Lower North Fork Fire zone, and they were searching for a third person unaccounted for in the same area. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office said the fire has burned 16 structures. Fire crews were bracing for a wind-swept day with winds expected up to 45 mph. About 900 telephone notifications telling residents to evacuate their homes were made March 26. Most of the homes destroyed were in the northeast section of the fire. About 25 evacuees stayed at a shelter at Conifer High School, March 26. Some chose to spend the night in their vehicles, in the parking lot to be with their pets. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has authorized the use of federal funds to help with firefighting costs, a spokesman said.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_20264330/colorado-wildfire-no-containment-lower-north-fork-fire

53. *March 27, Hartford Courant* – (Connecticut) **Brush fire at Devils Hopyard State Park continues burning.**

Firefighters are allowing a brush fire at Devils Hopyard State Park in East Haddam, Connecticut, that has consumed 40 acres to burn, authorities said. The fire broke out March 26 and continued burning into March 27. Officials said fire crews pulled back from active firefighting during the overnight hours, but are returning to continue battling the flames. Most of the fire is inside the park, but is spreading. Firefighters plan on burning out the area behind two homes in an effort to protect them, said a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection spokesman.

Source: <http://www.ctnow.com/news/connecticut/middlesex/hc-east-haddam-brush-fire-0327-20120326,0,3578906.story>

54. *March 26, Merced Sun-Star* – (California) **Three Mexican nationals ensnared in national forest marijuana grow cases.**

In California, a U.S. attorney and a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Special Agent in Charge said one defendant was sentenced March 26 for growing marijuana in the Stanislaus National Forest, and two defendants pleaded guilty in a second case to growing marijuana in the Sequoia National Forest. One man was sentenced 26 to 46 months in prison for conspiring to cultivate, distribute, and possess with intent to distribute marijuana. He was also ordered to pay the USFS \$4,921 to cover the cost of cleaning up the cultivation site. In the second case, two brothers pleaded guilty March 26 to conspiring to cultivate, distribute, and possess with intent to distribute marijuana and possessing firearms to further the drug conspiracy. According to the guilty pleas, the brothers conspired with others to cultivate 6,867 marijuana plants on public land in the Sequoia National Forest. The marijuana cultivation operation resulted in substantial environmental damage. Law enforcement officers found malathion, urea fertilizer, batteries, several thousand feet of plastic irrigation lines, and trash at the grow site, according to a news release from the U.S. attorney's office. Oak trees and other vegetation were cut to allow sunlight to reach the plants. The brothers have agreed to repay the government \$3,825 for cleaning up the site.

Source: <http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2012/03/26/2284325/three-mexican-nationals-ensnared.html>

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Dams Sector

55. *March 27, Terrebonne Parish Houma Today* – (Louisiana) **Storms damage Montegut Management Levee.** Storms brought heavy wind and high seas to the Terrebonne Parish in Louisiana the week of March 19, prompting wildlife and fisheries officials to mobilize to prevent a Montegut levee from breaching again. September's Tropical Storm Lee washed out a 60-foot-wide, 15-foot-deep gap in the Montegut Marsh Management Levee that levee officials filled in with dirt earlier in 2012. As water got higher, wildlife and fisheries agents put plywood along the outer edge to prevent erosion. The levee district is now searching for long-term solutions to strengthen the levee, which will one day be beefed up to become part of the Morganza-to-the-Gulf hurricane-protection system. Currently, there is no money in the Morganza budget to improve the levee, but officials said the district plans to find money in its maintenance budget. Wildlife and fisheries also stepped in to make fixes with agency money. The levee, which currently stands about 6 feet tall, is part of a project to improve water quality and prevent saltwater intrusion into about 1,000 feet of marsh between Island Road and Point Farm.

Source: <http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20120327/ARTICLES/120329617-1/opinion?p=1&tc=pg>

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